



JANUARY 12

GOODBYE YESTERDAY

HOPE FOR TODAY



POTLUCK & COVENANT WEEK

This week, we start the winter session of Life Groups with a potluck and covenant meeting. Your Life Group Leaders should have contacted you by now to make sure you know the time and location of the meeting and what to expect for the first gathering. If you have not heard from your Life Group Leaders, please contact Samantha Poladian at (818) 709-0113, ext. 105, and she will help to get you connected.

The Life Group Covenant explains the purpose of your Life Group, clarifies the expectations for being a part of your Life Group, and explains what you are committing to for this session. Your covenant will look different based on whether you are in an in-person group or a digital (Zoom) group.

As you prepare for your meeting, make sure to take some time to answer the questions in the study and then bring them with you to your first meeting.

Finally, we encourage you to use a journal or extra paper to write down your answers.

Enjoy!



GETTING STARTED

This weekend, we continued our two-week series, Goodbye Yesterday. We learned that if we become rooted in God's promises, we can trust in Jesus for our future.

Before starting the study, take a moment to sit quietly with the Lord and meditate on the promise found in this passage:

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

When you were a kid, what did you look forward to the most about your future?



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this two-week series and why?
2. This weekend, Joel shared that, as followers of Jesus, our best days are always ahead of us. Read John 14:1-7 two to three times and allow the words to become familiar. Be sure to write down any words or phrases that seem highlighted to you.
 - a. What in this passage instills a sense of hope for the future that the Lord has for you?
3. We all have bad days and sometimes face seasons of struggle in our lives. As you think through your life, describe a moment or season when you felt hopeless.
 - a. What brought you out of that place and helped you to move forward despite your struggle or circumstance?
4. It's natural to desire and place hope in the things of this world, but when our hope is in God's promises, especially in times of struggle, we can trust that He's always faithful to His Word. Read the following passages:
 - Romans 5:1-5
 - James 1:2-4 & 1:12
 - a. For both passages, write down the benefits we receive when we place our faith and hope in the Lord.
 - b. Has there been a time in your life when the Lord grew your faith and hope through a challenge you endured? Explain.
5. What practical changes can you make in the new year that will help to steward an ongoing hope in your life (e.g., spending daily time with the Lord, praying more consistently, committing to a Life Group, connecting regularly with a trusted Christian friend, reading and memorizing Scripture)?
6. Read Psalm 116. Reread verse 15. Sometimes, the Lord asks us to let something die in our lives to fulfill His greater plans and purposes for us.
 - a. Do you sense the Lord calling you to surrender something in your life and say "good-bye" to (e.g., a sin habit, a hobby, entertainment, a career choice, or a particular job)? Spend a few minutes now and surrender that to the Lord. Ask Him for wisdom and clarity regarding your priorities and your next steps. Be sure to write down anything you sense Him asking of you.



LOOKING FORWARD

1. Many people make resolutions and set goals at the beginning of a new year. What plans or commitments might you make to grow in your walk with Jesus this year?
 - a. What's your plan to get into God's Word more consistently?



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons, we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a topic is introduced, one or two members pray for that request. Then the Life Group Leader will direct the prayer time by sharing the next topic/request.

2. Pray Several Times Together

By focusing on one topic at a time, each member has an opportunity to pray at different times for the requests they are most passionate about.

3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple

By keeping both requests and prayers short and simple, everyone has a chance to share and pray. This helps those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying. It also helps everyone stay focused during your time of prayer together.